

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCI-06 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-11

IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 FEAE-00 EPA-04 CEQ-02

SAJ-01 NSF-04 COME-00 COA-02 EB-11 /122 R

66607

DRAFTED BY BDHILL

APPROVED BY SCI/SA:OGANLEY

ASFRIEDMAN, D:DIP

SCI:RCLIMATAINEN

EUR/SOV:TWALSH

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R 301303Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 164968

FOR SCIATT FROM AEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, OTRA, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT: TREATMENT OF
RADIOACTIVE WASTE

REF: A. MOSCOW 10678 B. MOSCOW 11257

USAEC HAS REVIEWED SOVIET PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN REF A AND
HAS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

1. ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME INTEREST IN SOVIET PROPOSAL,
AEC'S BASIC INTEREST AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED IS CONCERNED
WITH HIGH LEVEL WASTE, E.G., WASTE FROM AN IRRADIATED
FUEL PROCESSING PLANT;

2. AEC IS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING PROGRAMS IN BEING AND
PLANNED FOR MANAGEMENT OF WASTE FROM PROCESSING OF
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HIGHLY IRRADIATED NUCLEAR REACTOR FUELS SUCH AS FROM

ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCING SYSTEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, SHORT TERM STORAGE SUCH AS IN TANKS, METHODS OF SOLIDIFICATION TO FORMS SUCH AS OXIDES, VITREOUS FORMS, PACKAGING AND INTERIM STTS OF THESE WASTE FORMS, AND STUDIES AND PROGRAMS OF EVENTUAL DISPOSALS OF THESE WASTE FORMS;

3. AEC HAS INTEREST IN PROGRAMS FOR MANAGEMENT OF PLUTONIUM-CONTAMINATED WASTES, I.E., TREATMENT, INTERIM STORAGE AND DISPOSAL;

4. LAST AREA OF INTEREST TO AEC, ALTHOUGH TO LESSER DEGREE, IS THE MANAGEMENT OF RELATIVELY LARGE VOLUMES OF OTHER THAN HIGH LEVEL WASTES THAT ARE PRODUCED IN A SPENT FUEL PROCESSING PLANT, E.G., SOLVENT WASH WATERS.

5. SINCE SOVIET PROGRAM OUTLINED IN REF A DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE ABOVE INTERSTS, AEC MUST DECLINE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AUGUST VISIT.

6. IF SOVIETS PREPARED TO ARRANGE DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS CORRESPONDING TO ABOVE, AEC SUGGESTS POSSIBLE TEAM VISIT TO SOVIET UNION AT LATER MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, RADIOACTIVE WASTES DISPOSAL, SCIENTIFIC VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE164968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740207-0179
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974076/aaaaaeln.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AEC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MOSCOW 10678 B. MOSCOW 11257
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT: TREATMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, OTRA, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005